

THE STRUCTURE OF MEDICINE, AND ITS PLACE AMONG THE SCIENCES. By F. M. R. Walshe. Edinburgh: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1s. 6d.

IN this, the Harwin Oration of 1948, Dr. Walshe points out that the intellectual structure of medicine has been regarded in terms of two pairs of antitheses: art and science, and observations and experiment: "as though the two terms expressed a thorough going dualism." The purpose of his oration is to submit that medicine cannot be regarded as art and science, but rather as an art within a science. He pleads, therefore, for a philosophic approach to medicine, if we are not to decline to the level of technicians. It is by intellectual methods that the "confused data" of our experience can be transmuted into ordered knowledge. When we speak of a "trained observer" we acknowledge that observation is discrimination; he is one who "constantly scans the flux of presenting phenomena" in search of the pathognomic.

Dr. Walshe regards the hospital as the cultural ancestor of the laboratory. The practical arts employed in clinical examination he defines as "procedures traditional in origin and form, embodying the fragmentary wisdom of the generation's incomplete conquests on the frontiers of the unknown." The practical arts in diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment may be relatively inexact, yet they embody the sagacity of our predecessors. From these practical arts the development of science in medicine can be traced; but it is "imagination, insight, the quick discernment of patterns, and recurrences in events," qualities which we sum up as vision, that constitute any art within a science. Without these, we may decline to the level of technicians "and our profession to a chaotic medley of technologies."

Dr. Walshe's oration may be summed up as a closely reasoned argument in favour of the humanistic approach to medicine, and he ends by expressing the hope that the College of Physicians may remain "the home wherein the philosophy of medicine finds a permanent abiding place, with disciples eager to learn and to teach."

AIDS TO PATHOLOGY. By John O. Oliver. Ninth Edition.

THE famous "Aids" series now has a new addition, by John O. Oliver, of the Aids to Pathology. This is indeed a "Mulum in parvo," a veritable text-book of pathology, compressed into a handy volume of pocket size and composed of some three hundred pages.

The extent of the coverage of the subject is shown by the index of contents, which is arranged in classical style under thirty-six subject headings, while the lay-out of the book will prove of considerable value to the student studying for examinations.

A book of this type, which has its special appeal to the undergraduate, throws a heavy burden on the author or editor in his choice of what requires to be stressed and what can conveniently be glossed over, but it must of necessity be accurate in its facts and present the generally accepted opinions where facts have more than one interpretation.

Few will agree with the endothelial origin of macrophages in inflammation: that "no giant cells occur in the pathological lesions of leprosy," when tuberculoid leprosy is characterised by their presence; that the life of a red cell is three weeks, instead of approximately one hundred days; that a neutrophil polymorph is a non-granular cell; that Anti-B agglutinin is equivalent to  $\infty$  agglutinin and vice versa; that spirochaetes should be classified with the flagellata, instead of the spirochaetacea—to quote a few.

Despite these errors of proof correction, which will, no doubt, be corrected in future editions, the book will have its full quota of avid readers and I wish it every success. M. G. N.

The plates and photographs are, in general, of excellent quality, except those of ova and larvæ in fœces.

The chapter on serological tests for syphilis is the least satisfactory to pathologists in Great Britain, as only one of the described tests is used with any frequency.

But these are minor blemishes and do not detract from the general excellence of the book, which can be confidently recommended as a leading technical manual and a book of reference to all whose interest lies in this field. M. G. N.